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March 13, 2012. Testimony re: Raised Bill HB5433: An act creating a procedure for personal care attendants to collectively bargain with the state.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Lynrhonda Mcfarlane. I am a PCA and president of CTAPA, the Connecticut Association of Personal Assistance. I oppose the raising of Bill HB5433. Also a Democrat and member of a union already I see no reason to make PCAs unionized. I am very unhappy with the union that I am in now. I see no changes made or no promises kept. There is no good representation of its' members and no jobs are being kept. There are a lot of people losing their jobs and the union is doing nothing about it. I really don't want to be put in another situation like this where I am force to be part of a union that I do not want to join.

All I am seeing being done from unions is that they are taking union dues from my check every week. Also there is an issue being raised that PCAs are not getting paid enough money, well I get paid more as a PCA then I do at my other job as a customer service rep. I make minimum wage at my other job and get union dues taken out of that little check. Where as working as a PCA I have a decent income and I don't have to work long shifts everyday.

I believe passing this bill and unionizing PCAs will hurt this profession and the employer/employee relationship. How is it that if unionized PCAs will be required to receive training from people who are outsiders and not their employers??? What sense does that make. Wouldn't you think that PCAs employers have the best knowledge on how to train them. Passing this bill will not be in the best interest of PCAs and their employers.